"A"-1e-3

Low Latin provided the fund of religious and legal terminology, 192
as well as words used in record-keeping. A great number of suffixes have been adopted from Latin, a language which also helped to refine the Magyar sentence structure.

German loanwords, fittingly enough, are those associated with commerce, guilds, warfare and town life in general.

The following description is intended to present the most salient 000
characteristics of the Hungarian language, with occasional references to related linguistic phenomena in other Finno-Ugric languages.

The Hungarian sound system is somewhat richer than English. Both 194
vowels and consonants occur in short and long form, thus marking phonemic contrast.

The 25 Hungarian consonants largely correspond to the English ones with the following differences: there is no th; the r is trilled; voiceless stops (k,t,p) are much harder than the corresponding English sounds inasmuch as they are pronounced without aspiration; and the frequency of palatalized consonants is greater than in English. Hungarian, like all Finno-Ugric languages, does not have, as a rule, two consonants in initial

194 position, except in onomatopoetic words and borrowings (the range of the latter may, however, be relatively large).

There are seven short and seven long vowels in Hungarian. The difference between Hungarian and English vowels is marked, since the former, even the long ones, do not change their quality in the process of being pronounced, i.e. Hungarian vowels do not show the glide, so markedly present in English.

In all Finno-Ugric languages there is, or was, a phenomenon called vocalic harmony according to which only front (e, i, ö, ü) or only back vowels (a, o, u) occur within a single word (root plus suffixes). Suffixes have therefore developed alternate forms with vowels of different quality matching the root (-ban -ben, 'in'). As an exception, the vowels i, í, and é may enter back vowel words (e.g. házig, 'as far as the house'). In like manner, numerous borrowings are exempt from this rule.

Hungarian words bear a strong stress accent on their first syllable. However, the subsequent unaccented syllables show no sign of slurring, as both vowels and consonants in unaccented position are pronounced as distinctly as the unaccented ones. This first syllable stress is a common feature of several other Finno-Ugric languages.

194 Hungarian spelling is more phonetic than English. This is absolutely true of vowels where ¯ over a letter indicates quality and ´ and ª indicate length but, in the case of a and e, also a different quality. The spelling of consonants presents somewhat more difficulty. In the process of suffixation and word-composition, consonant clusters may develop, resulting in an internal sandhi that is not marked by conventional spelling and which creates a discrepancy between sound and conventional orthographical representation. (For the internal sandhi see Robert A. Hall, Jr., Hungarian Grammar. Language Monograph No. 21, Supplement to Language, Vol. 20, No. 4, pp. 19-20. Baltimore, 1944.)

193 From the point of view of morphology, the difference between Hungarian and English is rather striking. The morphological variations are expressed in Hungarian almost entirely by means of suffixes and partly of postpositions—a trait common to all Finno-Ugric languages. Prepositions are wholly unknown.

Another aspect common to the Finno-Ugric languages is that they completely ignore gender. Accordingly, Hungarian has just one declension for its substantives, with a host of suffixes by the addition of which over twenty cases may be formed. There is a plural suffix, possessive suffixes